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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/014,452	12/14/2001	Ralph A. Mosher	D/A1286	1083

7590 09/30/2004

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EXAMINER

RHEE, JANE J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1772

DATE MAILED: 09/30/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/014,452	MOSHER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jane Rhee	1772	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 July 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4,6-18 and 21-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4,6-18 and 21-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Rejections Repeated

1. The 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection of claims 1,4,6-11,18,21,22-25 over Parker et al. in view of Arnold et al. has been repeated for the reasons previously made in paper 5/19/2004.
2. The 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection of claims 12,14-16 over Parker et al. in view of Arnold et al. and in further view of Schlueter Jr. et al. has been repeated for the reasons previously made in paper 5/19/2004.
3. The 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection of claims 13 over Parker et al., Arnold et al. and Schlueter jr. et al. in view of Yamasaki has been repeated for the reasons previously made in paper 5/19/2004.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed 7/15/2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to applicant's argument that the examiner relied on Schlueter Jr. et al. to teach the amount of plasticizer and one would not be motivated to use the amount of plasticizer taught by Schlueter Jr. et al. because the plasticizer is completely different from the plasticizer as claimed, however, in the office action of 5/19/2004, Arnold et al. is the reference used to teach a plasticizer of bisphenol of 5%wt (page 5 line 4) which meets the claim limitation 'wherein the plasticizer is present in the adhesive in an amount from 0.1 to about 80 percent by weight of total solids'. Therefore, applicant's argument is moot since the examiner relied on Arnold et al. and not Schlueter Jr. et al. to teach the

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plasticizer that is present in the adhesive in an amount from 0.1 to 80 percent by weight of total solids.

In response to applicant's argument that Yamasaki et al. nor Pistoia et al. teach the claimed amount of plasticizer, the Yamasaki et al. and Pistoia et al. references are used to teach different electrically conductive fillers and not the claimed amount of plasticizer. Arnold et al. is the reference that is used to teach the claimed amount of plasticizer as shown in the office action of 5/19/2004, page 5 line 4.

Thus, in the absence of any evidence to the contrary, it remains the Examiner's position that the claimed invention is rendered obvious over the prior art of record discussed above.

The following are new grounds of rejection for the newly presented claim 26 in amendment filed on 7/15/2004.

New Rejection

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 26 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Parker et al. in view of Arnold et al. (4663371) and in further view of Schlueter Jr. et al. (5942301).

Parker et al. discloses an endless seamed flexible belt comprising a first end and a second end (figure 1) each of the first end and the second end comprising a plurality of mutually mating elements which join in an interlocking relationship to form a seam (figure 1 number 11), the belt comprising a polyimide substrate (col. 5 line 18) and the seam comprising an adhesive comprising a polyamide (col.8 lines 39-42,53-68). Parker et al. discloses that the belt is an intermediate belt (col. 1 lines 48) and electrographic imaging apparatus and processes for use as photoreceptors, intermediate sheet and or image transport devices (col. 1 lines 46-49). Parker et al. discloses that the plurality of mutually mating elements are in the form of a puzzle cut pattern wherein the mutually mating elements comprise a first projection and a second receptacle geometrically oriented so that the second receptacle on the first end receives the first projection on the second end and wherein the first projection on the first end is received by the second receptacle on the second end to form a joint between the first and second ends (figures 2-5).

Parker et al. fail to disclose a plasticizer selected from the group consisting of alcohols, amines, thiols, organic acids, oligomers and mixtures thereof. Parker et al. fail to disclose that the plasticizer is selected from the group consisting of bisphenols, paratoluene sulfonamides, phosphates, esters, castor oil, and mixtures thereof. Parker et al. fail to disclose oxalic acid.

Arnold et al. teaches that the adhesive comprises polyamide (col.1 line 52), oxalic acid (col. 3 line 24), a plasticizer, bisphenol of 5%wt(col. 1 line 52) and

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wherein the adhesive is crosslinked (col. 3 line 41) for the purpose of to increase the adhesion of the polyamide (col. 3 lines 59-61).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time applicant's invention was made to provide Parker et al. with the adhesive that comprises polyamide, oxalic acid, a plasticizer, bisphenol of 5%wt, and wherein the adhesive is crosslinked in order to increase the adhesion of the polyamide (col. 3 lines 59-61) as taught by Arnold et al.

Parker et al. and Arnold et al. fail to disclose that the adhesive further comprises electrically conductive fillers.

Schlueter Jr. et al. discloses that the adhesive further comprises electrically conductive fillers (col. 6 lines 50) for the purpose of exhibiting high mechanical strength providing heat-conducting properties this in turn improves the thermal efficiency of a fusing system employing the belt and possessing tailored electrical properties (col. 5 lines 3-6).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time applicant's invention was made to provide Parker et al. and Arnold et al. with the adhesive further comprises electrically conductive fillers in order to exhibit high mechanical strength providing heat conducting properties this in turn improves the thermal efficiency of a fusing system employing the belt and possessing tailored electrical properties (col. 5 lines 3-6) as taught by Schlueter Jr. et al.

Conclusion

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THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

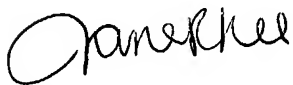
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jane Rhee whose telephone number is 571-272-1499. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9-6.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Harold Pyon can be reached on 571-272-1498. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Jane Rhee
September 23, 2004


NASSER AHMAD
PRIMARY EXAMINER
9/27/04